

Our obedience to the commands of Christ is not limited by our ability. The Master does not say to His servants, "Do what you can," but "Do what you cannot." In bidding His disciples feed the multitude, He brought them face to face with the impossible. Nothing could be more impossible for them to do, and yet Jesus commanded it, and they did it. In the presence of duty, it is not for us to ask, "Can we do it?" but, "Has the Master bidden us do it?" If He has, then it is our business to go forward in spite of impossibilities, and they will be changed into possibilities, as has been the case with locomotive engines, and ocean steamships, and electric cables, and suspension bridges. We have all these things, because men have not feared to attack impossibilities, and have overcome them.

"So near to glory is our dust,

So close is God to man,

When duty whispers low, 'Thou must,'

The soul replies, 'I can.'"

Christ never refuses what we bring to him. It is related that Henry Varley said to Moody, when he was young and unknown, "Brother Moody, God has yet to show the world what he can do with one really consecrated laymen." Mr. Moody was of small gifts and limited education, but he exclaimed with exultation, "By God's grace I'll be that one." Our talents may be but as the five barley loaves and two small fishes, but when given to Christ we have discovered the secret of immeasurable power.—Hurlburt's Illustrative Notes.

The Rain-drop reasoned: "Since showers are made of drops, if I fall to the earth the others may follow?" That rain-drop ought to have been elected professor of the chair of Common Sense in Every-day College.—Rev. John F. Cowan.

We do not know the after history of the lad whose lunch became the Lord's feast, but we are sure that it must have been a noble record. For it is a principle in the Kingdom of Christ that those who use well for Him what they have, receive more. The servants who gained for their lord, the one, ten pounds, the other, five pounds, with the one

pound received, became rulers over ten and over five cities. (Luke 19: 17, 19.) So the lad who placed his whole stock at the disposal of Jesus, must have been rewarded by being allotted some more important service for the Master.

"This is a charming lesson for small boys. Notice that Christ almost always had men in partnership with Him in working His greatest miracles. In His first miracle the servants were His helpers; in the healing of the palsied, the four mutual blanket-bearers; in raising Lazarus, He whose voice lifted the dead asked a man to roll away the stone. So here in this stupendous miracle a small lad was His helper." - Bishop Warren.

"We are taught by Jesus Himself to take this miracle as symbolical, for He followed it with the great discourse on the Bread of Life." So we cannot be wrong in seeing, in the hungry crowd, the race of man with the deep desires which the world can never fill, in the bread from Christ's hands, the perfect food of the world, of which if we eat, we shall be satisfied and live forever; and in the disciples carrying to hungry lips what Jesus had laid in their hands, the example which all Christian men are bound, and all deeply Christian men will be impelled, to follow, in their stewardship of the gospel."—Alexander McLaren.

The tenderness of Jesus is conspicuous all through this miracle. And even the roughest nature is, on that account, attracted by the story. As ice under the sun, the hardest heart responds to tenderness.

"We long for tenderness, like that which hung

About us lying on our mother's breast."

The person of Christ is instinct with this tenderness, this "bending of a high mind and great strength to sympathy with small things, weak things," this "adaptation to helpfulness in love." It is on this account that His gospel has special attraction for the toiling, and the weak and the weary. In sunshine we may think we have no need of Him. When cloud and storm and darkness